

Is Your School Eligible?

To receive a HealthierUS School Challenge award a school must:

- Participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and be a Team Nutrition school.
- Offer reimbursable lunches that are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and meet USDA nutrition standards.
- Support the local wellness policy efforts of its school district.
- Meet or exceed HealthierUS Criteria established for:
 - ✓ Average Daily Participation in the NSLP.
 - ✓ Nutrition standards for meals and competitive foods and beverages.
 - ✓ Nutrition education.
 - ✓ Physical education and activity.

Get the Details

For the online application and guidance materials:

teamnutrition.usda.gov

click on **HealthierUS School Challenge**.

Team Nutrition is an initiative of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to support the Child Nutrition Programs by promoting healthier eating and physical activity choices. Team Nutrition materials are available free of charge to schools participating in USDA's school meals programs.

Take the HealthierUS School Challenge!

Make your school one of the best in the nation, committed to nutrition and physical activity!

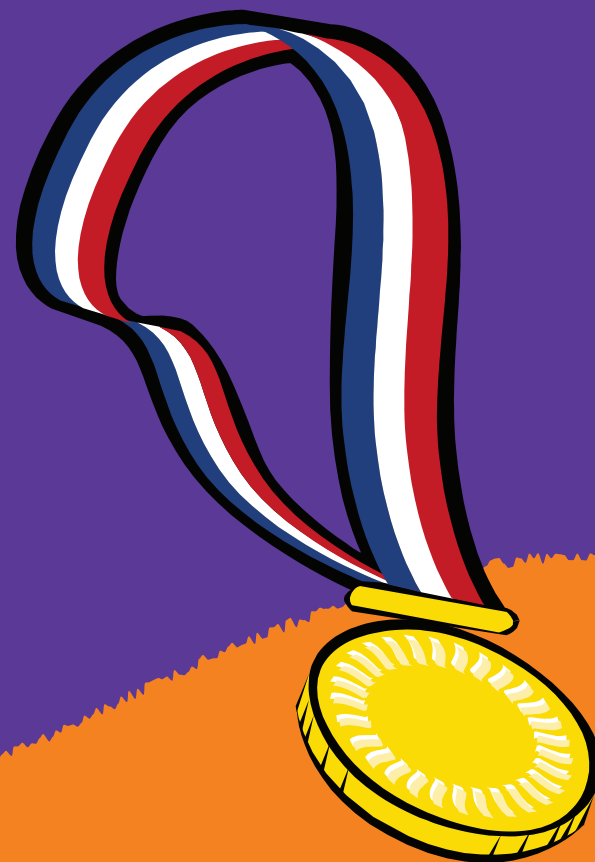
“Winning the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award brought our Food Service Program more recognition than any other promotional campaign we’ve done. Our staff received a real morale boost from the attention and respect they have received from the superintendent, school board, principals, teachers, and parents for their hard work and success.”

Serena Suthers
Prince William
County Schools
Manassas, Virginia



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Food and Nutrition Service
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HealthierUS School Challenge



Recognizing Excellence in
Nutrition and Physical Activity

Take the HealthierUS School Challenge!

About the Challenge

Childhood overweight and obesity are major concerns in the United States. Evidence indicates that poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and obesity are associated with lower student achievement. Recognizing that schools have more influence on the lives of young people than any other institution, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages all schools to take a leadership role in helping students learn to make healthier eating and physical activity choices that will last a lifetime.

USDA has established the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSC) to recognize schools that create healthier school environments by providing nutrition education, nutritious food and beverage choices, physical education and opportunities for physical activity.

The Challenge is:

- A voluntary national certification initiative for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- Offered at four award levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Gold Award of Distinction.

Get Ready!

- Review the application details at: teamnutrition.usda.gov
- Contact your State Child Nutrition Agency for assistance and guidance.

Get Set!

- Ensure each weekly menu meets NSLP requirements and the other HUSC criteria.
- Attend local training, if available.
- Convene a review team.
- Review the HUSC application and resource materials.

Go!

- Complete the application, obtain necessary signatures, and gather required documentation.
- Submit the completed application materials to your State Child Nutrition Agency.

Get Recognized!

- Gain community recognition for your school's award and national recognition on the Team Nutrition Web site.
- Be a leader. Champion your efforts in teaching students about healthy eating and lifestyle choices they will use throughout their life.
- Receive an award plaque and banner from USDA and monetary awards of: \$2000 for the Gold of Distinction level, \$1500 for Gold level, \$1000 for Silver level and \$500 for Bronze level.



“Obtaining a HUSC award builds a sense of pride and puts you a step above the rest in regard to child nutrition, and the result is that kids are better for it.”

Foodservice Director
Elementary School, Arizona

